

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Thomas CONRAD et al

Confirmation: 4060

Serial No.: 10/561,219

Group Art Unit: 3616

Filed: December 19, 2005

Examiner: Karen J.  
AMORES

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR  
DAMPING VIBRATIONS

**Request for Reconsideration**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

In response to the Patent Office communication of July 9, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 32 through 39 and the objection of claims 40 through 44 on the grounds of being anticipated by Saotome et al or obvious in view of Saotome taken with Sugasawa, in view of the following additional comments.

Saotome is cited as disclosing, presumably in Figures 4A and 4B, a damping device provided with a first rigid member connectable to the body of a vehicle, a second rigid body connectable to a wheel suspension system of such vehicle and a body of elastomeric material interconnecting such rigid members having a pair of chambers provided with a damping liquid, a first restricted orifice intercommunicating such chambers and a distinct second, restricted orifice intercommunicating such chambers, as recited in independent claim 32. A further consideration of the Saotome device, however, does not reveal two separate orifices intercommunicating the two chambers but simply a single passageway.

Referring to Figures 4A and 4B of Saotome, it is to be noted that the body provided therein includes a cylindrical bracket B, a cylindrical member 2 disposed concentrically within cylindrical bracket B, an arcuate groove on an inner surface of cylindrical bracket B cooperating with cylindrical member 2 to provide an arcuate passageway 5e, an opening 5d

in cylindrical member 2 intercommunicating a lower chamber 4 and passageway 5e, an opening 5f in an upper portion of cylindrical bracket B communicating with an upper end of passageway 5e, an opening 5g in cylindrical bracket B and cylindrical member 2 communicating with upper chamber 4 and an inverted, u-shaped passageway 5h intercommunicating openings 5f and 5g, providing a single passageway between the two chambers consisting of opening 5d, passageway 5e, opening 5f, passageway 5h and opening 5g.

In view of the deficiency of Saotome in providing a damping body as claimed having two separate orifices intercommunicating the two damping chambers, it respectfully is requested that the rejection and objection to claims 32 through 44 be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

Applicants again acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 45 through 47 and the indication of the allowability of claims 40 through 44.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8369.017.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: October 1, 2009